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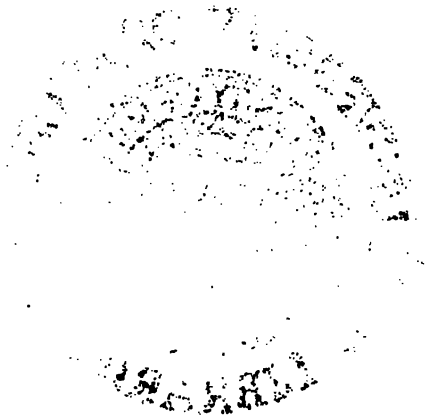

MORRISON'S

STRANGERS' GUIDE

TO THE

CITY OF WASHINGTON,

AND ITS VICINITY.

ILLUSTRATED WITH SEVENTEEN ORIGINAL DESIGNS ON STEEL, AND A HEAD OF WASHINGTON FROM A PICTURE BY WRIGHT, NEVER BEFORE ENGRAVED.

SECOND EDITION.

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM M. MORRISON,
WASHINGTON CITY.
1844.

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ALEXANDER AND BARNARD, PRINTERS.

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MORRISON'S

STRANGER'S GUIDE

WASHINGTON

WM. M. MORRISON, P.C.AVENUE.

WASHINGTON

MORRISON'S GUIDE.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

THE Metropolis of a great country, is always a subject of interest. It is supposed to be the mirror of the nation, and travellers and strangers are ever inclined to form an opinion of the people at large, by the state of the Metropolis of the country. This holds good in a moral point of view, and is equally correct when adopted as a criterion of judgment of the state of the Arts and Sciences of a nation.

The City of Washington is the seat of the Government of the United States. It is located in the District of Columbia, a territory of ten miles square, formed into a separate and detached jurisdiction by the Constitution of the United States. Within the limits of the

District of Columbia, lie the towns of Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria. The river Potomac, flowing from the mountainous regions of Virginia and Maryland, divides the District in twain; Alexandria being on the Virginia side. The other two cities lying on the shores of Maryland.

The City of Washington was laid out by General WASHINGTON, according to an act of Congress; and in 1800, Congress for the first time took up its permanent abode within its limits. It lies in latitude 38° 53′ north.

The view given by the artist, of the City of Washington, is taken from a point of land known by the name of Giesborough, at the mouth of the Eastern Branch, and embraces every point of interest. In front flow the Potomac and the Eastern Branch, the former opening from the narrows of Georgetown, and the latter pouring its tributary waters into the larger stream, after having swept the wharves of the Navy Yard. Directly opposite is the Military Arsenal, while to the south is seen the President's House, and the

Capitol towers over all in the eastern section of the city. The figures employed in the picture are historical. They are fishermen engaged in the Potomac fisheries. This is a peculiar feature of this great and valuable river. Millions of Herrings, and immense numbers of Shad, are annually caught, packed up in barrels, and thence distributed to every region of the United States. The fisheries commence in the spring, and usually last from four to six weeks.

The whole area of the city consists of upwards of four thousand acres. The ground is about forty feet above the level of the river. The original proprietors of the land on which the city is laid out, in consideration of the great benefits which they expected to derive from the location of the city, conveyed in trust, to the Commissioners, for the use of the public, and for the purpose of establishing the city, the whole of their respective lands which are included within the lines of the city, upon condition, that after retaining for the public, the ground of the streets, and any number of squares that the President

may think proper for public improvements or other public uses, the lots shall be fairly and equally divided between the public and the respective proprietors. By this means the public had possession of more than ten thousand lots, from which funds were to be raised, to defray the expense of the public buildings, in addition to 192,000 dollars, (Virginia gave 120,000 and Maryland 72,000,) and to effect all the other objects of a permanent location. Many of the streets of Washington are one hunded and sixty feet wide, and none under ninety feet. The laws of Maryland, and Virginia, very generally prevail in the jurisprudence of the District.

The following is the 1st section of an act, passed on the 16th July, 1790, to establish the seat of Government.

"An act for establishing the temporary and permanent Seat of the Government of the United States.

"SECT. 1st. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That a District or Territory, not exceeding

ten miles square, to be located, as hereafter directed, on the river Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the Eastern Branch and *Connogocheque* be, and the same is hereby accepted for the Permanent Seat of the Government of the United States: *Provided, nevertheless*, That the operations of the laws of the States within such District shall not be affected by the acceptance until the time fixed for the removal of the Government thereto, and until Congress shall otherwise by law provide."

In obedience to this clause, General WASHINGTON, the President, after diligent observation, selected this section, as the seat of the Federal Government, and had the city laid out on a plan of magnificence, commensurate with his own great and expansive mind.

HISTORICAL FACTS WITH REFLECTIONS.

IT is an historical fact, that even before the Revolutionary war, the site of the City of Washington was laid out, and called *Rome*. A gentleman by the name of *Pope* was the proprietor of the soil, and the *Tiber* ran

through his tract. The stream still flows, a muddy brook, and has its ancient name of fame.

Here, also, even when these names were not remarkable among the people of those days; when, though they were, they were not looked upon as prophetic, the Indians of many tribes congregated, and deliberated in council. Here they regulated their wild government, made treaties and declared war. The legend is true, and General Washington, it is supposed, was aware of the fact.

How singularly, then, has this location become the seat of a great empire. There is a romance around every, even the most common, incident of life, and here we find it. Here, where the name of Rome, the mighty mistress of a world dead but unforgotten, was a familiar word, where even the common tillers of the soil recognized its sound, and applied it to the mighty forest lands that then were here, when in going and returning to their daily work they crossed the Tiber, how strangely has it happened that here, an empire great as the mother of empires herself, has

been established—that on the land called Rome, a Capitol is built, a Senate house and a Forum—that here a bridge spans the Tiber's yellow tide, and thousands pass it on the avocations of a millioned empire—that here is the house of a Chief Magistrate, and all the forms of a republic, and more than its shadow.

THE CAPITOL.

THIS building was commenced in 1793, by Mr. Hallet, as architect. During the last war it was destroyed by the British army, at the time of their memorable incursion upon the Metropolis. In 1813, Congress determined to rebuild the Capitol.

The Capitol of the United States is situated on an area of twenty-two and a half acres—is on an eminence, whence the eye runs along the distant shores of the Potomac, the green-clad hills of Georgetown heights, and the umbrageous shores of the Eastern Branch. Looking from its terrace, the vision is refreshed with beauty, and the whole view, north, south, east and west, combines a panorama of grandeur unsurpassed by any location in the country. From the grounds can be seen the cities of Alexandria and Georgetown, the former lying some six or seven miles down

CAPITOL.

East View.

CAPITOL

South West View

the river, and the latter three miles distant to the west.

The exterior of this edifice presents a rusticated basement of the height of the first story; the two other stories are comprised in a Corinthian elevation of pilasters and columns. The columns are thirty feet in height, and compose a portico on the eastern front of one hundred and sixty feet in extent, the centre of which is crowned by a tympanum, embellished with a group of statuary, the composition of the venerable J. Q. Adams, and the execution of Persico, the Italian.

The building is surrounded by a balustrade of stone, and covered with a lofty dome in the centre, and a flat dome on each wing.

The dimensions are as follows: The enclosure within the iron railing contains twenty-two and a half acres of ground; length of foot walk outside of railing, three quarters of a mile and one hundred and eighty-five feet.

Length of front,	-	-	352 feet, 4 inches.
Depth of wing,	-	-	121 " 6 "
East projection and steps,			65 "
West "		"	83 "

Covering one and a half acres, and one thousand eight hundred and twenty feet.

Height of wings to top of balustrade,		70 feet.
Height to top of centre dome,	-	145 "
Representatives' Room, length,	-	95 "
" " height,	-	60 "
Senate Chamber, length,	-	74 "
" " height,	-	42 "
Height of great central Rotundo,	-	96 "
Diameter " " "	-	96 "

The north wing was commenced in 1793, and finished in 1800: cost,	$480,262 57
South wing commenced in 1803, and finished in 1808: cost,	308,808 41
Centre building commenced in 1818, and finished in 1827: cost,	957,647 35
Total,	$1,746,718 33

The Hall of the Representatives is in the second story of the south wing, and is of the form of the ancient Grecian theatre. The chord of the largest dimension is ninety-six

feet. The height to the highest point of the domical ceiling is sixty feet.

This room is surrounded by twenty-four columns of variegated native marble, from the banks of the Potomac, with capitals of white Italian marble, carved after the Corinthian order, still remaining among the ruins of Athens. The dome is rich and grand, similar to the Pantheon of Rome, and executed by a young Italian artist, Benoni, now dead. In the centre of the dome is a cupola, to admit the light upon the desks of the members. The Speaker's chair is elevated above the floor, and canopied; above it, and under an arch, is a statue of liberty by Causici, and on the entablature beneath, is an American eagle, copied from nature by an Italian artist, who has left but this one specimen of talents in this country.

"The artist, Seignor Valaperte, was but a short time in America, the most of which he spent in Washington. He was retiring in his habits, and of a melancholy temperament, associating with few persons, and with them but seldom. Soon after the completion of

this work, (the eagle,) he disappeared in a mysterious manner, but soon after a body being found in the Potomac, identified as his, the doubt was solved, and the fated child of genius was known to have met his death by self-destruction."

In front of the Speaker's chair and immediately over the entrance, is a marble statue of History, recording the events of the nation. She is placed on a winged car, traversed by the signs of the zodiac, and the wheel of the car is composed of a clock, the whole of beautiful structure and design.

On one side of the Loggia is a portrait of Lafayette, executed in full length by a French artist, and said to be an admirable likeness of the illustrious Frenchman. Opposite to this picture is one to correspond, of Washington, painted by Vanderlyn.

Between the columns, at their base, are sofas placed for those admitted by rule and privilege to the floor of the House, while in the area sit the members at mahogany desks.

Between the House of Representatives and the Senate Chamber, is the Rotundo. This

grand hall is the most imposing part of the Capitol. In its centre stands the great statue, by Greenough, of Washington, and around its walls, in panels, are the various pictures ordered by Congress. To the west are Trumbull's four pictures, the figures as large as life; one the Declaration of Independence; the other the surrender at Saratoga; the next the illustrious closing scene of the Revolution, the surrender at Yorktown; and the last the resignation of his sword by Washington, at Annapolis.

It is not within the scope of these sketches to criticise these invaluable paintings or works of art, but they record events that give impulse to patriotism, and impart to them a value far beyond that which even the genius of the distinguished artist himself could bestow. The only other picture of the four now ordered by Congress, that is in the Rotundo, is Chapman's great picture of the baptism of the Indian Princess, Pocahontas, before her marriage with Rolph, the Englishman.

The northern door of the Rotundo leads

into the vestibule of the Senate Chamber. This chamber is adorned by a screen of Ionic columns, after those of the temple of Minerva Polias. These columns support the gallery to the east, and form a loggia below, and a new gallery of iron pillars and railings prop it from the semi-circular wall to the west, and support a gallery for the use of ladies. The chair of the Vice President of the United States, and of the Senate, is a canopied elevation under the eastern gallery, and overlooks the floor of the Senate. In the area, the Senators sit in semi-circular form, each at his mahogany desk.

Within the Capitol is a Library, a large and elegant room, filled with a choice collection of books, bought by Congress, and disposed in order by an excellent librarian. The Library is open, during the session, to visiters, and every other day in the week during the recess. The present librarian is a gentleman of amiable manners, and takes pleasure in exhibiting the books under his charge.

In the basement of the north wing is the Court Room of the Supreme Court of the

United States, a low, ill-formed apartment, which seems ready to burst under the weight of the entire building.

STATUARY OF THE ROTUNDO.

THE visitor to the Capitol ascending the steps of the Eastern portico, in landing upon the floor of that spacious colonade, finds himself upon the Inaugural scenes of several Presidents. Between the two centre pillars General Jackson and Mr. Van Buren were inaugurated. Here, too, General Harrison was inaugurated. At this spot, some few years since, Lawrence, the maniac, attempted the life of General Jackson. Lawrence is still in the prison of this city, full of the belief that he is the President of the United States.

On the North side of the great entrance door from the Portico to the Rotundo, stands the statue of War, by Persico. It is made of marble, and is about nine feet high.

War is represented in the costume of an ancient warrior. His helmet presses upon his brow, and his breast is covered by the

iron corslet. He leans with his left arm upon his shield, and with his right, brings his sword up to his heart, across which it lies in readiness for combat. His eyes are lowering with anger, and his whole attitude indicates a roused and excited temper. There is, however, nothing fierce in the expression. A manly sense of power and right, and calm indignation seems to pervade the figure. His nostril is not sufficiently distended, and the whole statue is rather clumsy. The finish given to this figure is very high.

On the other side of the door, stands the beatific figure of Peace. The maiden, clothed in a simple garb, is in the act of extending the olive branch to her warlike brother. A smile of calm and sublime repose hovers about her eyes, and her attitude is one of simple and guileless innocence.

In neither of these statues, however, have the ideas intended to be conveyed, been fully expressed, and we trust that some future writer upon these topics, will have occasion to mention the works of our countryman, Powers, whose chisel should not be permitted

to lay inactive, when so much remains to be done about the Capitol of the United States.

When we enter the Rotundo and look around at the statuary there collected, we are startled at the sight. Grotesque figures start from the walls, and startle us by their burlesque appearance. Over the door leading to the Senate Chamber, is a panel filled with a representation of Penn's treaty with the Indians. Penn is in the act of delivering the treaty to a couple of chiefs, whose heavy proportions threaten a sudden incursion upon the floor of the Rotundo. Two doves, amicably placed in juxtaposition over the heads of the Indians, coo an accompaniment to the soft persuasion of the great William, and the deep apoplectic gutterals of the obese Indians. We trust that Congress will, ere long, order the total erasure of this specimen of sculpture. Circling to the west, we reach the Rescue of Capt. Smith from the Indians, by the Indian Princess Pocahontas. Here we see the surgeon's skill. Anatomy flourishes in lay figures, for the lecture room; and the whole group looks more like a parcel of

galvanized bodies, than an ideal work by the hands of an artist. When will Government learn to employ men of true genius — men of the country, who can feel the incidents of the country as natives of the land, and who know what an Indian is in prose, and not in romance, as half the Italian sculptors do.

Farther on, over the southern door, is Boone's combat with the Indians. This is by Causici. Boone is in the double act of warding off a tomakawk blow of his antagonist, and of giving him a mortal stab beneath the uplifted arm with his hunting knife.

Boone is calm, cool and brave. The gigantic Indian whose head towers among the branches of an o'erspreading oak, is full of muscle and strength. His face is truly barbarous. At the feet of the combatants lies an admirable figure — a figure which redeems the whole of the Rotundo sculpture — a dead Indian. The hole made by the bullet in his left side is evident. The grim contracted brow, the scornful smile upon the closed and rivetted lips, tell of the Indian's triumph in his dying moment over his white conqueror.

Many years ago, the writer of these sketches was in the Rotundo, when a band of Winnebagos came through the hall. The tribe to which they belonged, was one of the most savage of the North American Indians. They had never before permitted themselves to be induced to visit the settlements of the whites. They were wild, savage, proud and almost intractable.

The delegation consisted of about twenty. They were all of them noble looking fellows, dressed in their own barbaric uniform. Their faces were painted of various colors, and in their belts were their scalping knives and tomahawks, and over their backs their long iron-looking bows and arrows.

As they were passing through the Rotundo, their attention was arrested by this group of statuary—Boone killing the Indian. They formed a semi-circle, and the head man stepped forward and stood before the rest. They looked intently for some moments, scrutinizing and recognizing every part of the picture, and then suddenly, as of one impulse, they raised their dreadful war-cry and ran hurriedly from the hall.

Over the Eastern door is represented the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers upon the sacred rock of Plymouth. The boat has just touched the foot of the rock, and in the prow is a Pilgrim in the act of landing. His little son seems to caution him ere he ventures among the savages. But the mother, with her eyes elevated to heaven, places her trust there and restrains the boy. Seated on the rock is an Indian, holding in his hand an ear of corn, as an emblem of friendship. The conception of this work is noble—how could it be otherwise, commemorating one of the sublimest incidents in the annals of mankind? Fleeing from the arm of persecution in England, the Pilgrims of New-England stand at this day pre-eminent among their kind, for that one act of sublime self-sacrifice. Coming to an unknown, a wild and savage region, whose shores were washed by a tempestuous sea, whose lands were sterile, whose inhabitants were savages, enemies to civilization and to Christianity, we can now scarcely estimate the greatness of their sufferings, or calculate the amount of the reward that history owes them.

This colony, commonly known by the name of the Puritans, landed at Plymouth, in Massachusetts, and soon after began the first permanent English settlement in New-England.

They fled from England to Amsterdam in Holland, in 1607, with their clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Robinson; from Amsterdam they moved to Leyden, where they remained until they set out for America.

Among the reasons for leaving their homes in England, the prospect presented of enjoying "a purer worship and a greater liberty of conscience," was the principal. They came to the wilds of the Western world, pilgrims of conscience; and it was their descendants, who, born with the love of liberty in their hearts, reared the standard of revolution against tyranny, upon the sacred mount of Bunker, and met the foes of freedom for seven long years, upon every field where man could die or conquer.

In the centre of the Rotundo stands the celebrated statue of Washington, by Greenough, the American sculptor. While these

pages are passing through the press, the statue is covered from observation, owing to the want of a pedestal. Immediately beneath the statue in a perpendicular line, in the basement story of the Capitol, shrouded in gloom and approachable only by lamplight, is the tomb, prepared by Congress, for the Father of the country. It is a large, and finely constructed vault, but it is tenantless. Mount Vernon claims her hero.

CAPITOL GROUNDS.

THE grounds about the Capitol are laid out with considerable taste. No site, however, presents finer opportunities for landscape gardening. The soil is capable of producing the finest forest trees, and already great numbers are planted there. These are ranged in regular order, presenting a range of stiff lines to the eye, and failing in that great object of park scenery, the illusion of distance. Were the trees so arranged, by placing the darkest foliaged trees near, and the lighter leaved trees farther off in umbrageous vistas, so as to

conceal the views of long rows of houses on the Avenue, the eye would be led along, as in a fine landscape, and the mind deceived into the momentary belief that it was enjoying some rich and glorious views through a wind-made avenue of a forest, breaking open a path for the vision to the blue hills in the distance. A man of true taste and thorough talent could so transpose the trees and shrubbery, and arrange the walks, so as to compose labyrinths, apparently many miles in extent. It is feared that nothing of the kind will ever be attempted. Whatever grows from the earth is beautiful, and ignorance cannot rob the flowers of their hues, or the trees of their trembling foliage; but art could add charms to nature, and give to the public grounds at Washington an enchantment worthy the country. Immense sums of money are expended annually upon the grounds, and every year we see nothing but the same thing over again. It does not take five or six thousand dollars to furnish compost to the grounds, or as much money to make the trees and the flowers grow. The same amount of money expend-

ed by a gentleman of taste, upon the public grounds, would improve them a hundred-fold, and give to the seat of Government, a true and established benefit. Nothing could be more beautiful than for visitors to ramble beneath the shady trees, catching here and there a view of an artificially formed landscape. The river Potomac, with its lofty blue shores, forming the back-ground, and a gnarled oak crept over by red vines, with the silvery ash and powdery sycamore between, to make a rich and picturesque fore-ground and middle distance. Now, you see every thing as it is — there is no room for the imagination; and that which Congress meant, and which the nation intended, to be of the highest order of landscape, is nothing more than a stiff Dutch park.

The basin of water at the bottom of the western yard, might be converted into artificial lakes, with pebbly shores, and swans floating upon the surface. Trees of fantastic shape might be planted along their banks, to throw a checkered shadow on the still mirror of the clouds.

Nature, in her freest forest garb, might be located here, and rocks, piled upon rocks, be taught to imitate their kindred in the wildest mountain passes. Old withered trunks of trees scattered about, with ivy creeping over their decayed limbs, clumps of trees interspersed so as to complete an endless variety would contribute to the perfection of the picture, which all the stiff regularity of poplars, cedars and aspens could never aspire to rival. But it is to be feared that the control of these grounds will never pass into the hands of a man capable of such elegant improvements. These observations can apply as well to the grounds about the President's house. In the whirl of politics the arts are overlooked, and that which is ornamental is left to languish under the false excuse, that the people would not sanction these improvements. The people would not object, though petty politicians might.

PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

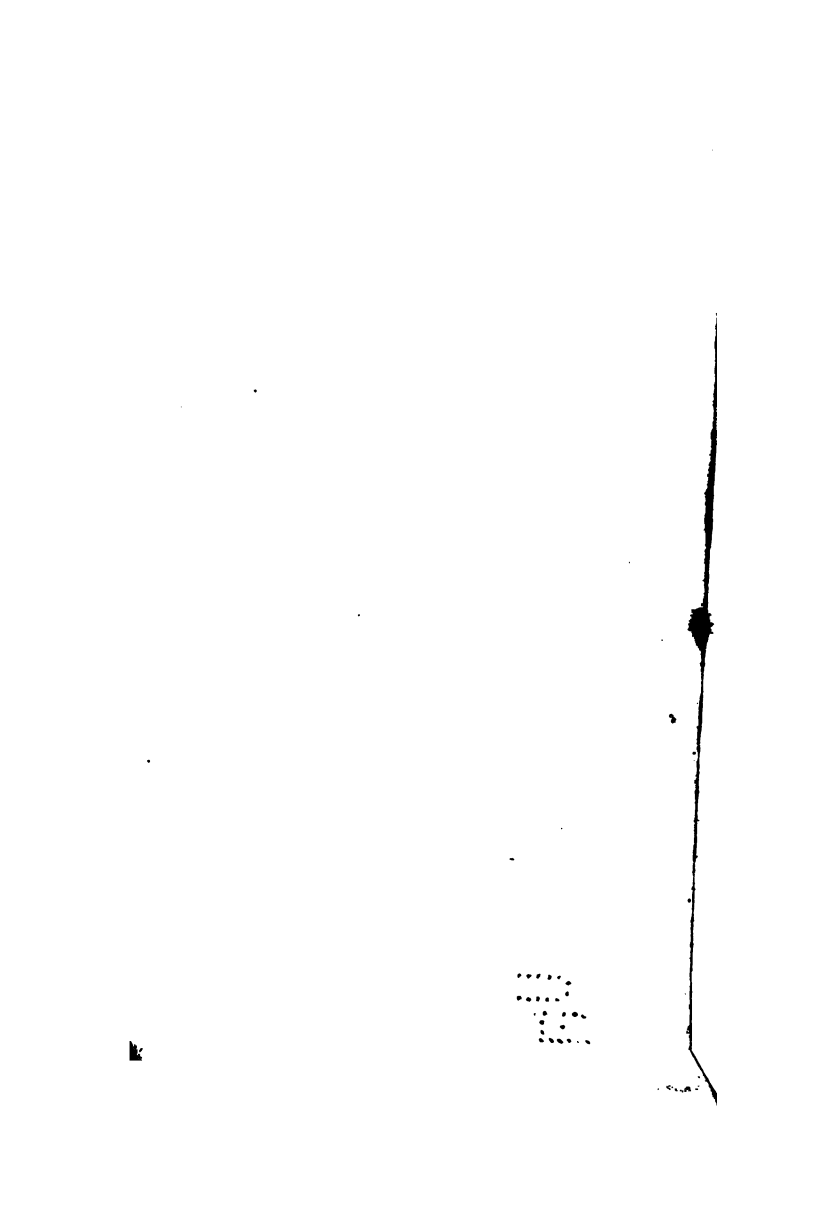
THE President's House is an object of great curiosity to visiters. It is a place of resort to strangers visiting the Metropolis. On the 13th October, 1792, a procession was formed for laying the corner stone.

This building is situated in the western part of the city, and stands on a plat of ground of twenty acres, forty-four feet above the tide water of the river. It has a southern and northern front, the southern presenting a grand view of the Potomac. On both fronts the grounds are laid out with taste, and planted with forest trees and shrubbery. The walks are of gravel, broad and delightful. The mansion is one hundred and seventy feet front, and eighty-six feet deep, and is built of white free stone, with Ionic pilasters. There are two stories.

The northern front is ornamented with a

PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

North Front



lofty portico of four Ionic columns in front, and projecting with three columns. Beneath this portico drive the carriages of visiters.

The northern entrance opens upon a plain but spacious hall or vestibule. Immediately opposite the front door is the reception room. The walls of this room are covered with rich and beautiful paper. The chimney-pieces are of marble, beautifully wrought. The tables are of marble, and the curtains of rich crimson. The carpet is circular to suit the room, with the arms of the United States displayed in the centre. There are two large mirrors and a splendid cut chandelier in this apartment. On each side of this room, and communicating by large mahogany doors, is a square room of thirty by twenty-two feet. These three rooms, with the celebrated east room, compose the reception rooms on occasions of festivity. To the west of these rooms is the dining room for company, forty by thirty, and on the north-west corner is the family dining room. "All these rooms are finished handsomely, but less richly than the oval room. The walls are covered with

green, yellow, white, and blue papers, sprinkled with stars, and with gilt borders. The stairs for family use are in a cross entry at this end, with store rooms, china closets, &c., between the two dining rooms. On the east end of the house is the splendid banqueting hall, stretching the entire depth of the building, with windows to the north and south, and a large glass door to the east, leading to the terrace roof of the offices. This room is eighty by forty feet, and twenty-two feet high; it is finished with handsome stucco cornice.

"The paper is of fine lemon color, with a rich cloth border. There are four mantels of black marble, with Italian black and gold fronts, and handsome grates; each mantel is surmounted with a French mirror, the plates of which measure one hundred by fifty-eight inches, framed in a very beautiful style; and a pair of rich ten-light lamps, bronzed and gilt, with a row of drops around the fountain; and a pair of French cepina vases, richly gilt and painted with glass shades and flowers. There are three handsome chandeliers of

eighteen lights each, of cut glass of remarkable brilliancy, in gilt mountings, with a number of bracket-lights of five candles each.

"The carpet, which contains nearly five hundred yards, is of fine Brussels, of fawn, blue and yellow, with red border. Under each chandelier is placed a round table of rich workmanship of Italian black and gold slabs—and each pier is filled with a table corresponding with the round tables, with splendid lamps on each of them. The curtains are of light blue moreen with yellow draperies, with a gilded eagle holding up the drapery of each. The sofas and chairs are covered with blue damask satin. All the furniture corresponds in color and style. The principal stairs on the left of the entrance hall, are spacious, and covered with Brussels carpeting. On ascending these, the visiter to the President is led into a spacious ante-room, to wait for an introduction. When introduced, he ascends a few steps, and finds himself in the east corner chamber, the President's Cabinet Room.

"The room is about forty feet wide, and

finished like those below. The centre is occupied by a large table, covered with books, maps, manuscript, &c. The President is seated at a smaller table near the fire place."—*Elliot's History of the District of Columbia.*

Robt Mills. Archt.

TREASURY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

THE Treasury Department is located on Fifteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue.

This noble structure is four hundred and fifty-seven feet in length. The colonade in front is very imposing, being the entire length of the building, and after the architecture of the temple Minerva Polias, at Athens.

The number of rooms amount to two hundred and fifty. The corridors have vaulted ceilings with tesselated pavements.

This building is erected on the site of the old Treasury Department, burnt in 1833. The Treasury is adjoining the Department of State.

As the burning of the old Treasury building was attributed to two men, brothers, Richard and Henry White, Henry was tried, and, as participator in the crime, was convicted and

sent to the Penitentiary of Washington. Richard, the elder brother, had several trials, the jury not agreeing, until, finally, he was acquitted. This extraordinary trial lasted for three or more years, continued at intervals through that time, and, during the whole of its progress, the prisoner was attended by his wife, a beautiful and interesting woman. In jail she was with him, and at his trials she sat by his side, devoted to his fate with the pertinacity of a deep and unfathomable affection. She lived only to see him acquitted, and died soon after.

The acquittal of the principal supposed incendiary involved the guilt or innocence of the accessory, and strange to say, that Henry, who was convicted upon evidence proving his having been seen in company with Richard on the night of the fire, was suffered to linger in the Penitentiary, though the trial of his brother was his acquittal. A petition was got up, and after some delay, the unfortunate man was released.

It subsequently turned up, that every one of the principal and most positive witnesses

against the Whites were at different times apprehended, convicted, and, for various offences, committed to different penitentiaries.

A high reward for the incendiaries had been offered by Government, and, induced by the prospect of so much money, a band of villains united in a story of great plausibility, and nearly succeeded in their dark conspiracy against the liberties of two unhappy men.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

THREE fronts of this edifice are of marble; the other of granite. The architecture is not bold—is of the Corinthian style, composed of columns and pilasters, disposed upon a high rustic base.

The plan of the building is a parallelogram, two hundred and four feet in extent, and sixty-five feet in width, with two wings at right angles, one hundred feet each in length, and fifty-four feet wide.

It contains eighty rooms.

On the site where stands the present Post Office, stood, some few years since, the old Post Office building. In the dead of night a fire broke out in one of the rooms, and before the city could be aroused, the flames spreading in every direction, consumed the entire fabric, with many invaluable papers. This destructive fire happened during the admini-

fine collection of Indian portraits, painted from the original heads by King. These valuable pictures are now in the custody of the National Institute.

THE NAVY YARD.

THE view herewith presented of the United States Navy Yard of Washington, is taken from the bridge over the Eastern Branch. It embraces the ship houses, the building shed, and the work shops of the yard, &c., &c.

The works at this place are very extensive. Entering an arched gateway guarded by a part of the marines, the visitor enters a neatly kept and extensive yard, of some twenty or thirty acres in extent. On his left is the house of the commandant of the yard, who is generally a captain of the Navy, and on the right are houses for the lieutenants and other officers. Farther down towards the Eastern Branch are ranged the various work shops, the great forges for anchors, the block and tackle factory, the carpenters' shops, and many other houses for the convenience of the public works. At this place, several vessels were sunk when the news of the defeat of our army at Bladens-

NAVY YARD

burg reached the authorities. There are several hundred men usually employed at the yard. It is said that vessels keep better here than in any of the other Navy Yards of the Government. This is owing to the peculiar properties of the water, which prevents the ships from rotting, and exclude the worms. Several fine vessels of war, of the following names and rates have been built and launched at this yard: ship of the line Columbus, 74; first class frigates Potomac, Brandywine and Columbia, 44 each; sloop of war St. Louis, 20; schooners Grampus and Shark, 10 each; and Experiment, 4.

Without the precincts proper of the Navy Yard, are the barracks for the United States Marines. There is a large settlement of houses and inhabitants congregated around the yard, but business does not flourish here. There is no commerce, and what trade there is, consists in coal and wood, and the produce of the river, fish and oysters. The houses look ancient and time worn. Government does not foster this post to a very large extent.

THE BURIAL GROUND.

THIS cemetery is situated in the eastern section of Washington, about a mile and a half from the Capitol. Below it flow the waters of the Anacostia.

The Burial Ground occupies about ten acres of land. Our view embraces the column erected to Major-General Brown, commander-in-chief of the Army. It is the broken shaft of a column, poetical in the extreme. The small tomb beyond it is Judge Barbour's, late of the Bench of the Supreme Court. Between it and General Brown's, unmarked by a tomb, lies the grave of the eloquent and elegant William Wirt. The pyramid tomb marks the resting place of the gallant Rodgers, a commodore in the United States Navy. The square one is the tomb of Commodore Patterson. Beyond, in the distance can be seen a row of tombs, erected to members of Congress.

The grounds of this burial place are neatly kept. Trees are planted to shade the turf that wraps the bodies of the dead; and silence is only broken by the murmuring wind, as it moans through the branches and dies away among the tombs

THE DUELING GROUND.

WITHIN a mile and a half of Bladensburg is the celebrated Dueling Ground of the south. It is enclosed by two hills, at the base of which runs a small and reedy brook. To the east the hills sweep round a little, and conceal the parties from the Baltimore and Washington turnpike road. Here fell Decatur, in his duel with Commodore Barron. The District line runs through this valley, and the parties from the District of Columbia and Virginia pass over the line into Maryland, and thus evade the laws of their own territories. Those of Maryland pass over into the limits of the District of Columbia. This spot is about four miles from Washington.

The Dueling Ground is encompassed by the limits of the battle ground of Bladensburg. All along the turnpike, passing by

the dueling ground, the British army advanced, and further west, towards Washington, within a mile of the valley of death, the advancing column of the invading army was checked by the gallantry of the brave Commodore Barney.

LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

NATIONAL INSTITUTION
FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE.

THE National Institution for the promotion of Science was organized in the month of May, 1840. Its officers are—

His Excellency JOHN TYLER, President of the United States, Patron.
Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, President.
Colonel Peter Force, Vice President.

Directors on the part of the Government.

Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State.
Hon. Walter Forward, Sec'y of Treasury.
Hon. John C. Spencer, Secretary of War.
Hon. Abel P. Upshur, Sec'y of the Navy.
Hon. Chas. A. Wickliffe, Post Master Gen.
Hon. Hugh S. Legaré, Attorney General.

Directors on the part of the Institution.

Hon. John Q. Adams, House of Reps. U. S.
Hon. William C. Preston, Senate U. S.

Col. J. J. Abert, Chief Top'l Eng'r Bureau.
Col. Joseph Totten, Chief Eng'r Bureau.
A. O. Dayton, Fourth Auditor, Treasury.
Com. L. Warrington, Board Navy Com'rs.
Francis Markoe, Jr., Corresponding Sec'y.
Pishey Thompson, Recording Secretary.
William J. Stone, Treasurer.
Dr. H. King, Curator.

Its stated meetings are monthly, and held in the Patent Office building. Its collections are in the Grand Hall of the same building. This hall is about two hundred and seventy-five feet long, and sixty-five feet wide, finished in the most chaste architectural style. It is considered one of the most splendid rooms in America, and when completed by the addition of the wings, as proposed in the original design, will be upwards of four hundred feet in length. The rapidly increasing and noble collections of the National Institution will require this extension for their accommodation by the time it would now be possible to complete it.

Soon after the organization of the National Institution, the Government of the United

States placed in its charge the valuable collections in Natural History, &c., already sent home by the South Sea Exploring Expedition. About the same time, the American Historical Society, which had been already organized, and actively engaged in the pursuit of its purposes, united with it, transfering its library and collections, and forming now the department of American History and Antiquities. This was soon followed by a transfer of the library, collections, and other effects of the late Columbian Institute. These, again, by many further contributions and deposites on the part of the Government, particularly the valuable Gallery of Indian Portraits and Curiosities in the War Department; the Collection of Minerals and Geological Specimens, made by Dr. D. D. Owen in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, in a late exploration performed by order of Congress, and the valuable Mineralogical Cabinet, and other interesting articles, the property of the late James Smithson, Esq., of London. To these from time to time have been added many large and valuable contributions by the

members of the Institution. These, as far as prepared for exhibition, have already made the hall of the National Institution a place of great resort for citizens and strangers; but when the entire collection now on hand, and those expected from the Exploring Expedition and many other sources, shall have been fully arranged, it will become one of the most useful as well as interesting places in our country. The publications of the Institution, so far, have commanded general attention, and it is proposed before long to bring out regularly volumes of transactions.

This Institution, although organized under very flattering anticipations, has progressed in a manner beyond the most sanguine hopes of its earnest friends. This must be very gratifying to the scientific world generally, but particularly to the American portion; for it must be evident from the experience of other countries, as well as our own, that no institution of the kind, fully competent to accomplish all the purposes required of it in this enlightened age, could be organized any where else than at the seat of the govern-

ment of these United States. It is a matter of no slight moment, as evincing the deep interest taken by the Government in this great national plan, that the President of the United States has consented to become its Patron.

COLUMBIAN COLLEGE.

THIS institution is delightfully situated on the high range of ground north of the President's House, about two and a half miles from the Capitol. The view from the roof of the College edifice is rarely surpassed, including nearly the whole of the District and extensive portions of Maryland and Virginia.

It was incorporated by an act of Congress in 1821. The buildings are a college edifice of five stories, including the attic and basement, having forty-eight rooms for students, with two dormitories attached to each; two dwelling houses for Professors, and a philosophical hall, all of brick. It has a library *of four* thousand volumes, obtained chiefly in

England and Germany. The philosophical apparatus is ample.

PROFESSORS.

———— Belles Lettres, Intellectual and Moral Philosophy.

The duties of this Professorship are at present performed by the Professor of Mathematics and the Professor of Languages.

Thomas Sewall, M. D., College Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

William Ruggles, A. M., Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

Alexander McWilliams, M. D., Botany.

John O'B. Chaplin, A. M., Latin and Greek Languages.

Frederick Hall, L. L. D., College Professor of Chemistry.

Kendall Brooks, A. B., Tutor.

There are two sessions, one of six and one of three months. The first from November to May, the second from July to the first Wednesday of October, when the public commencement for conferring degrees, &c., is held.

The higher classes are admitted to courses

of lectures on Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry and Natural Philosophy. On occasions of great interest, the students are allowed to hear the debates in Congress, and the arguments in the United States Supreme Court. The performances of the young gentlemen who have received its honors at the public commencements, have reflected high credit upon the institution.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

THE lectures in the Medical Department of this institution commence on the first Monday in November, annually, and continue until the first of March.

During this period full courses are delivered on the various branches of Medicine.

PROFESSORS.

Thos. Sewall, M. D., Prof. Pathology.
Harvey Lindsly, M. D., Prof. Obstetrics.
Thos. Miller, M. D., Prof. Anatomy, &c.
J. M. Thomas, M. D., Prof. Materia Medica.
J. Frederick May, M. D., Prof. Surgery.
Frederick Hall, M. D., Prof. Chemistry, &c.
S. C. Smoot, M. D., Demonstrator of Anat'y.

The Medical College is situated at the corner of Tenth and E streets, equi-distant from the Capitol and the President's House.

UNION LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Union Literary and Debating Society of Washington, is an Association of gentlemen which has been in existence for many years. We have some recollection of its meetings as far back as 1818; but it seems to have been discontinued for a time, for a re-organization of the Society took place in 1824. During the last seven years its operations have been conducted with great zeal and vivacity; and talents of a very superior order are still exhibited before crowded audiences of both sexes, on the evenings of Thursday in each week, at the Lecture room of the Medical College, at which time and place their meetings are held. There is a small initiation fee and a quarterly contribution paid by the members for the purpose of defraying the current expenses of the Society. The subjects usually discussed are connected immediately or

remotely with the well being of society, consisting of literature, science, morals and general policy. Religion in the sectarian sense, and politics in the party sense, are both excluded. The constitution and rules of order are formed upon the most approved parliamentary models; and the proceedings of the Society are conducted with a dignity and decorum that might do no discredit to some deliberative assemblies. Its officers are a President, 1st and 2d Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, which offices are at present filled, respectively, by Joseph S. Wilson, Esquire, James Clephane and John M. Duncanson, Esqs., John H. Lang, Esq., and James McGuire, Esq. The term of office is one year, and the election takes place on the first regular night of meeting in January.

THE ARTS.

It would not do to omit, in a work of this kind, the very elegant Exhibition Rooms of Mr. Charles King, artist. These rooms, comprised within a tasteful building, are situated on Twelfth street. Mr. King has shown great taste in the construction of his Exhibition House, and in the manner with which he has decorated his grounds.

His galleries are filled with many fine pictures by himself, and deserve the repeated visits of strangers.

On F street, near to Mr. King's, is Chapman's Studio. This distinguished artist has no public exhibition room, but the walls of his Studio are ornamented by some noble pictures, copied by him while in Europe, from some of the old painters. His easel, generally, is rich in smaller gems, the fruits of his finely cultivated taste and exquisite handling.

Thomas Doughty, the landscape painter, has a Studio, and resides also in Washington. This distinguished painter, like Chapman, has no room of public and paying exhibition, but a series of great and poetical landscapes is passing under his brush. During the winter season numbers of artists, both European and native, flock to Washington, and generally, through the politeness of heads of committees, obtain a committee room in the Capitol, for the prosecution of their studies or profession.

There are several other artists of Washington, portrait and landscape painters, whose names as yet are unknown to fame.

STATUE OF WASHINGTON.

THE following beautiful description of Greenough's Statue of Washington is from the pen of the Hon. Edward Everett, extracted from the Boston Miscellany of Literature and Fashion.

"Mr. Greenough has in his studio, among other projected works, the cast of a group de-

signed for the front of the Capitol at Washington, which he is desirous, and we trust may be permitted, to execute in bronze. It is matter of painful reflection to see beautiful works in marble exposed in open air in a climate in which they will so soon be discolored and corroded by the weather. Even in Florence, where the winter is mild compared with that of the District of Columbia, the marble statues exposed to the weather for any length of time, have been seriously injured.

"But the work on which Mr. Greenough's reputation must for some time principally rest, is his WASHINGTON, which, while we write these sentences, is on its way to America. At an early age it was the distinguished good fortune of our townsman to have attained such a reputation, as to receive from Congress the honorable commission to execute the statue of the Father of his country, to be placed in the magnificent Rotundo of the Capitol at the seat of Government. A more important and more honorable commission was never confided to an artist. It has engaged the greater part of the time of Mr.

Greenough for eight years; and will be deemed, we are confident, by all competent judges, and by the well informed public at large, to have been most successfully and honorably performed.

"This statue is a seated figure of heroic, or rather colossal size, being twice the dimensions of life. Were it erect, it would consequently stand about twelve feet high. It represents the great hero, statesman, and citizen with the right hand pointed to Heaven, and the left hand holding a sword, with the handle turned from the person. The upper part of the figure is bare; from the middle of the body down it is covered with a Senatorial drapery. A very pleasing effect is produced by the manner in which the back of the chair is carved in open work, so as to display the back of the figure. The sides of the chair are wrought in low reliefs, symbolical of the character and fortunes of North and South America; and on the top of the chair, right and left, are figures of Columbus and of a native of our continent. The face is composed from that of Houdon, with a judicious com-

parison of the other contemporary authorities. It represents all the elevation, benignity, and force of Washington's character—his firmness, tempered with pure benevolence; and it possesses an advantage, not shared in an equal degree by that of Chantrey, and still less by that of Canova, in faithfully reproducing the well known features, with which every American claims a personal acquaintance, as of a familiar friend or venerated parent. It will be seen, however, that Mr. Greenough has by no means slavishly copied Houdon.

"We regard Mr. Greenough's Washington as one of the greatest works of sculpture of modern times. We do not know the work that can justly be preferred to it, whether we consider the purity of the taste, the loftiness of the conception, the truth of the character, or, what we must own we feel less able to judge of, accuracy of anatomical study and mechanical skill. Had it been the work of Canova, Chantrey, or Thorwaldsen, it would have been deemed, we doubt not, worthy of either of those artists. Nay, we are prepared to go further, and disclaiming all pretence to

connoisseurship, we are persuaded, if, instead of being a statue of Washington, it had been a statue of Julius Cæsar or Alexander the Great; if, instead of coming from the studio of a young American of the present day, with all its freshness upon it, it had been dug up in the ruins of the baths of Titus, or the Villa of Adrian, shattered and mutilated, arms, legs, nose, and even head gone—stained and corroded; when it had been scraped and pieced together, furnished with modern extremities, and perhaps a head of doubtful authenticity —and thus restored, had been set up in the Vatican or the Tribune, it would have been deemed as fine a piece of sculpture as any there.

"This grand work is of one single piece of marble, not of pure white, which it is impossible to procure in masses of sufficient size for such a statue without stains fatal to its beauty, but of a bluish tinge highly favorable to the effect of a work of art. The marbles of this kind are now preferred for works of this description.

"*There* are two points, in reference to

which we have heard Mr. Greenough's Washington criticised, and on which we beg leave to state our impressions. One is the absence of drapery from the upper part of the figure; the other is the precise significance or meaning of the statue, and the propriety of a sitting posture.

"The first topic, that of the costume of works of art, is, of course, too extensive to be exhausted on an occasion like this. It presents, undoubtedly, some difficulties. There are two schools among artists in this respect, and two opinions among judges of art. Without engaging in the discussion, we may with safety say, that to confine the sculptor, in a great monumental work like the statue of Washington, to the exact imitation of the clothes and the manner in which the hair was dressed, is greatly to limit the field in which the creative skill of the artist is to be exercised, and to reduce to a low point the standard of the art. It rests upon the false assumption that the closest possible imitation of life is the object of the art of sculpture. It leaves little but the face, which would not be

purely mechanical imitation, and not only so, but the imitation of the most grotesque and fantastical of human inventions. The caprice of man has certainly never wandered so far in the tasteless and the extravagant, as in the department of the tailor and the hair-dresser. With all due respect even for these personages, as they existed and flourished in revolutionary times, we must boldly say, that there are few things more ungainly than the powder and pomatum, the ear locks, and clubbed hair, the coat and small clothes of a continental major-general of that period. If it were deemed desirable to perpetuate them, and if the imitation of nature were without qualification the principle of the art, it would be better as they do in the wax-work museums, instead of torturing the marble, to put a *bonâ fide* peruke, and a cloth uniform, faithfully fashioned after the model of 1776, upon the head and shoulders of the statue.

"Mr. Chantrey, who belongs to what the English consider the school of historical imitation, in the matter of costume, has given Washington a drapery destitute of the only

merit *such* drapery can have, that of resemblance to the costume of the time. Canova gave to Washington the Roman military costume, bearing no resemblance to the modern, covering the upper part of the person, but leaving a portion of the leg bare, conforming to ancient usage in military statues, but as unlike as possible to any dress actually worn in America and Europe in modern times. Mr. Greenough has adopted a drapery which meets all the requirements of delicacy; which is sanctioned by the authority of the greatest masters of art in ancient and modern times, and to which the public is now reconciled and familiarized in busts, which are almost invariably made either wholly nude, or with an artistical drapery unlike any thing actually worn. This drapery in the statue of Washington gives the artist the opportunity of displaying the nervous arm, the broad shoulders, the full throat, the arching breast, and swelling muscles of an heroic figure, in all their beautiful and manly proportions and symmetry. That some objections to this mode of representing Washington will be felt by

those who have not reflected much upon the subject, nor traced the necessary details and consequences of any other system, we the less doubt, as we have already heard them made, and have at a former period felt them ourselves. We have, however, a confidence founded on experience, that the more the subject is weighed, the more these objections will be found to lose their force; and we are strongly inclined to the opinion, that the public taste will finally settle down in the conclusion that Mr. Greenough has, in this respect, adopted the plan most consistent with the dignity of the work to be performed, and most likely to afford a refined pleasure, independent of the caprices of fashion, in all future time. For the period can never arrive, so long as there is any taste or fondness for the beautiful creations of art, when the skillful delineation and idealization of "the human *form* divine" will not be considered one of the highest efforts of imitative skill.

"The other point on which we presume Mr. Greenough's statue will be criticised, be*cause* we know it has been, regards the con-

gruity of a sitting posture, with the action *supposed* to be indicated; that is, the resignation of Washington's command at the close of the war. We emphasize the word *supposed*, inasmuch as this idea, however current and even natural on a hasty inspection of the work, is wholly groundless. That a military officer would not perform the act of resigning his command in a sitting posture, is so exceedingly obvious, that it could not have escaped an intelligent artist. Common politeness requires the performance of every such act in a standing posture. Again, in point of fact, Washington resigned not his sword but his commission. It is not supposed that an artist, undertaking to record a specific event, would have wandered so far from the well known historical truth, as to substitute a sword for a roll of parchment. The object of the work is misapprehended when it is supposed to record the performance of any specific deed. It is designed to represent a character, not an action. It is Washington in the aggregate of his qualities, not Washington performing a particular exploit, or discharging

any particular function or duty. It is the Washington of a whole life, not of any one moment. It is expressive and suggestive, not historical and descriptive. With such significance, a seated posture is not only appropriate, but it is preferable to a standing one. There are very few *actions* that can be performed by a public personage sitting in a chair. Canova has selected one of the few for his Washington, but the congruity of the action with the military harness in which it is performed is questionable. But this posture is most in keeping with the repose and calmness personified in the character of Washington. The uplifted right hand, pointing to Heaven, does not perpetuate any gesture made by Washington on any particular occasion, but it is in this way that the voiceless marble speaks out that habitual reliance on Providence which was so substantial an element of the character of the man. In like manner, the sword in the other hand is there, not as a weapon, but as a symbol. It indicates the military leader, but it is neither presented nor wielded. Washington is neither going to the

field nor resigning his command. He holds the sword which belongs to him as the commander-in-chief of the American armies. It is not taken in hand for use, although it is so held that it can be easily turned and grasped if occasion requires. It is not offered to be resigned, although it might, perhaps, without over refinement, be inferred from the peculiar manner in which it is held, that its owner is prepared and inclined to lay it down whenever it can be done with safety to the country. This explanation of the statue, it may be proper to say, is not given on the authority of Mr. Greenough. The writer of this article has never conferred with him on this point. It is the view of the matter which has spontaneously presented itself to his mind, for which the artist is in no degree responsible.

"We will add but a single reflection on the subject, and it is this: that there is no one, in our judgment, however exalted his conceptions of the character of Washington, that will not derive new views of its harmony, dignity, and elevation, from the survey of this noble work."

PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

NATIONAL THEATRE.

Between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, within a few yards of Pennsylvania avenue, is the National Theatre. This resort is opened every night during the winter months, and is generally the Theatre where all the Stars of the drama, the tight rope, juggling, dancing, singing, &c., are congregated. The system of Washington starring has entirely destroyed all hopes of a good permanent Theatre, sustained by a stock company. The lights of the stage are too brilliant for the more grave complexion of the regular delineators of the drama.

WASHINGTON ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

The old Theatre on Louisiana avenue, in the rear of Gadsby's hotel, has recently been

converted into a splendid suite of rooms for assemblies. There are two immense rooms, each furnished with dressing apartments and supper rooms. Great care and considerable money have been expended to render these rooms worthy of metropolitan fashion

GEORGETOWN.

Our artist has selected a spot on the Virginia shore of the Potomac for his fore-ground. In view lies the city of Georgetown. This town formerly belonged to Maryland. It is boldly and beautifully situated on a range of hills that tower above the river, and rise in undulating beauty along the eastern and northern horizon.

Georgetown possesses the ancient college belonging to the Catholics, under the direction of the Jesuits; also a nunnery, and various other seminaries of learning. The heights of Georgetown are remarkable for the noble and expansive view commanded from them. Along these elevations gentlemen of wealth have built their dwellings, and no city in the union has scenery around it so interesting.

During the session many members of Congress reside here. In former days George-

GEORGETOWN

town was a place of great commercial enterprise; and now, those merchants who are largely embarked in trade, are full of zeal and energy. Her flour mills are numerous, and rank with the best in the country.

The artist, with strict fidelity, has included a view of the Aqueduct of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. This stupendous work is at present unfinished. The piers, nine in number, are built of granite, and imbedded seventeen feet in the bottom of the river, with a foundation upon solid rock, so as to withstand the shock of the spring ice, which, rushing furiously from the stormy regions of the falls and narrows above, passes with almost resistless force against the bridges of the Potomac, sweeping every thing before it. These piers, built in the most masterly manner, will bear up against any force that may be brought against them. This Aqueduct connects the great Canal of the Ohio and Chesapeake with the city of Alexandria. It has occupied several years in the construction. Its length is fourteen hundred and forty-six feet. The piers are thirty-six feet above high water mark.

HEIGHTS OF GEORGETOWN.

It is needless to extend our remarks upon this point. The view is taken from the turnpike road, leading from Georgetown to Fredericktown in Maryland.

Nothing can surpass this splendid panorama. Below reposes the city of Georgetown with its spires — to the left the Metropolis — like a waving band of silver, the Potomac stretches as far as the eye can reach to the south — while the Cupola of Mount Vernon can be distinguished, breaking up against the southern horizon.

No strangers at the seat of Government should omit visiting the spot whence this view was taken.

VIEW FROM THE CUMBERLAND ROAD NEAR GEORGETOWN

CATHOLIC COLLEGE,

GEORGETOWN.

GEORGETOWN College was founded in 1791, under the auspices and by the united efforts of the illustrious Archbishop Carroll and his confreres of the society of Jesuits, who had found an asylum in America from the persecutions which had nearly destroyed the order in Europe. Archbishop Carroll, in a letter still preserved in the College, dated 1790, writes to F. Charles Plowden in England: "Next spring we will commence our academy on a sight the most lovely the eye could wish to rest upon." The description is not exaggerated, and the many improvements made since the days of Carroll, both in the number and finish of the buildings, the extension and cultivation of the demesne, render the locality of Georgetown College inferior to none in the union; while its peculiar

salubrity is attested by the extraordinary fact that no student has died on the premises since the foundation of the College. It is situated on the northern bank of the Potomac, on the summit of a lofty hill, which rises gradually as you approach it from the town, with a very rugged and abrupt ascent on the south to the margin of the river, and on the north and west to a deep valley. The northern declivity, however, has been beautified by the application of great labor and art, which have been successfully employed in the formation of a magnificent garden, falling in regular gradations to its base.

The buildings are of brick, and are very elegant and commodious. They are capable of containing above two hundred boarders. The most prominent are the old and new colleges, occupying opposite extremities of the lofty eminence on which they are erected, and about three hundred feet asunder. The old college is occupied by the professors. The new one is appropriated to the students, and in it are the class rooms, dormitories, library, museum, &c.

About ten years ago another splendid edifice was erected near the old college, in which are the refectory of the students, the study room, and a most beautiful chapel. From the fourth story of the new college there is a prospect not surpassed in richness and variety by any in the union. It embraces within its range the whole of Washington and Georgetown, commanding a distinct view of the Capitol and the other public buildings, with the great Potomac, bearing on its waters the commerce of the sister cities, the third of which, Alexandria, is seen at a distance.

On the first of May, 1815, the College was raised by Congress to the rank of University, with the amplest literary privileges. She was then able to point with exultation to some of the most distinguished men of the Republic as her first elèves; and since that period she has continued to be *focunda virûm parens*, who form a galaxy of talent and virtue of which any institution might well be proud. The course of studies occupies, generally, seven years, inclusive of the

preparatory classes, which last four years, unless the proficiency of the student authorizes an abbreviation of that term. The College possesses a select library of twenty-two thousand volumes, and is provided with an extensive philosophical apparatus, and a cabinet of minerals. The system of education embraces the Greek, Latin, English, French, Spanish, and Italian languages; Rhetoric and Polite Literature, Geography, the use of the globes, Book-keeping, a complete course of Mathematics, Moral and Natural Philosophy, Divinity and the fine arts. During the whole course great attention is paid to composition, particularly English. For the improvement of students in public speaking, they are exercised every week before the professors and students in declamation. The College enjoys no endowment, and relies for its resources upon the current income derived from tuition. The number of students varies from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and seventy; the present number is one hundred and thirty. The presiding officer at this time, is Rev. James *Ryder.*

FREE SCHOOL.

THERE is attached to Trinity Church, Georgetown, a free school, supported by the voluntary contributions of the Catholics. It is under the direction of Rev. Peter Cruz and P. O. Flanagan, S. J., pastors of the congregation, and is at present in a very flourishing condition. Above a hundred children receive instruction in this institution.

CONVENT OF VISITATION.

THE Convent of Visitation, Georgetown, founded by the most Rev. Archbishop Neale in 1798, is at present the most flourishing establishment of its kind in the United States. It is situated at the north-west extremity of the town, upon the declivity of one of the beautiful heights of Georgetown. The handsome range of buildings appropriated for the ladies' academy are of brick, between two and three hundred feet in length, by forty in breadth. In their interior, usefulness and convenience are combined with neatness and elegance; and the apartments are admirably

adapted to the uses made of them. These buildings occupy part of the side of an oblong square, which contains an area of four or five acres, part of which is appropriated as play ground for the scholars, and the remainder as an excellent botanical garden. There are other edifices of great extent on the same square, comprising the Bishop's residence, an elegant church, the convent and charity schools. The whole is under the direction of the sisters of the visitation, the sole object of whose united exertions is the advancement of the young ladies in piety and virtue, in intellectual and external cultivation, and in fitting them for the domestic duties of life. The number of boarders is generally one hundred. The benevolent school for the instruction of poor female children is numerously attended.

ALEXANDRIA

ALEXANDRIA.

THE spectator, who, from the western front of the Capitol, overlooks the beautiful and diversified plain which stretches beneath and around it, will discern, at the distance of about six miles to the south, the town and port of Alexandria.

Facilities for reaching it are afforded by the steamboats, which ply at almost every hour of the day, and also by a bridge* across the Potomac, and an excellent turnpike. The strikingly beautiful features of the intervening country — the graceful outline of the Virginia hills, confronted by those of Maryland — the broad and majestic expanse of the Potomac, (whose name, we

* This bridge was broken by the ice during the winter of 1840, but a liberal appropriation has been made by Congress for its repair, which is expected to be finished next summer. In the meantime, a ferry-boat supplies the communication.

have been told, signifies in the Indian language, "*the River of Swans*," and might seem descriptive of its characteristic grandeur and stateliness,)—all these conspire to render an excursion to Alexandria one of the most agreeable incidents which can await the sojourner in Washington. We deem it, therefore, entirely compatible with our plan, to dwell with some little particularity on the history and condition of this third and oldest of the cities of the District.

Few, comparatively, of the interior towns of the United States can look back, like Alexandria, on the vicissitudes of nearly a century. Its foundation dates from 1748, and that it was early a place of some note is shown by the fact, that five colonial Governors met here by appointment, in 1755, to take measures with General Braddock respecting his expedition to the west. That expedition proceeded from this place; and tradition still points to the site on which now stands the older Episcopal Church, (but then "in the woods,") as the spot where he pitched his tents, while the road over the

western hills, by which his army withdrew, long bore the name of this unfortunate British commander. But the reminiscences which the Alexandrians most cherish, are those which associate their town with the domestic attachments and habits of Washington. The reader of his letters and addresses will remember that he constantly speaks of them as his old and valued fellow-citizens, his kind and cherished neighbors and associates. Writing from York Town, he assures them that, "amidst all the vicissitudes of time and fortune, he should ever regard with particular affection the citizens and inhabitants of Alexandria." On another occasion he mentions with seeming exultation, that the people of Alexandria, who, on hearing of the ratification of the Constitution by the requisite number of States, had determined to devote a day to festivity, "constituted the *first* public assembly which had the pleasure of pouring out a libation to the ten States that had actually adopted the General Government." This friendly interest was manifested on every occasion, and a

legacy of £1,000 to a free school in the town, testifies that it ceased only with his life. Nor were the Alexandrians backward in acknowledging, nor have they been since unmindful of, the honor which so intimate and cordial an intercourse conferred upon their city. Of the sympathies which reassured him in the hour of difficulty, of the acclamations which greeted him in that of his success, *theirs* were not the least fervent, or the least welcome. It was this "voice from home" which, amid the applauses of the world, seemed ever to come with most acceptance to the heart of Washington. The stranger in Alexandria is still pointed to the church of which he was a vestryman, to the pew in which he customarily sate—and many striking memorials of his varied life are carefully preserved. Among the local anecdotes which relate to his intercourse with the town, the following, which, though authentic, has found its way into but few biographies of Washington, may not be unacceptable.

When yet but twenty-two years of age,

he was stationed with a regiment of Virginia militia, of which he was Colonel, in the town of Alexandria. An animated election for delegates to the Assembly came on, and Washington, who entertained a warm political and personal partiality for one of the candidates, engaged with ardor in the contest. The opposite candidate was supported with equal warmth by Mr. W. Payne, a respectable citizen of the neighborhood, between whom and Washington an angry discussion ensued in the street. In the course of it, Washington was hurried to the length of applying a direct personal insult to Payne, and was answered by a blow, which felled the future hero to the ground. The military crowded around, and would have avenged their beloved leader on the spot, but Washington, with characteristic moderation, appeased the tumult, and withdrew to his quarters. The next morning Mr. Payne was invited to his room, and went, expecting arrangements for a resort to the usual and extreme mode of reparation. But Washington had passed the interval in reflection, and

had regained the mastery of his passions. He received his late opponent with courtesy, acknowledged the injustice which he had done him, and a personal friendship was cemented which terminated only with their lives. It may safely be said, that but few men would have been thus capable of recognizing and atoning for a wrong: of the *heroes* of the world, Themistocles might have acted thus from policy; Turenne from constitutional equanimity; but Washington was actuated by that high principle which accompanied him through life, and which rendered him as incapable of inflicting as of submitting to injustice.

Alexandria, as is commonly known, came with the rest of the District, under the exclusive control of the General Government in the year 1800. Previously to this, and for a few years afterwards, the commerce, resources, and general prosperity of the town, seem steadily to have advanced. Owing, however, to causes which have been variously sought in the restrictive policy which it was thought necessary to oppose to the ag-

gressions of England and France, in the rivalry of neighboring cities, and even in the disfranchisement which attended the separation of this part of the District from Virginia, the prosperity of Alexandria received a check in the early part of the century, followed by a long period of vicissitude and depression. But the visitor will be gratified at witnessing many proofs of revived activity, and will observe, in the style of several recent buildings, sufficient evidence that a new impulse has been communicated to the hopes and spirit of the inhabitants.

Among the public works which attest the spirit or animate the hopes of the Alexandrians, the first place is undoubtedly due to the Canal, now nearly completed, and expected to open to them the resources of the upper Potomac. The intelligent observer who views the Aqueduct at Georgetown, which forms a part of it, will wonder how so stupendous an undertaking could have entered into the contemplation of a community like that of Alexandria. Nor is it possible that it could have been effected until after

long years of embarrassment and distress, had not the timely and munificent aid of the Federal Government been extended to the work. When completed, this canal will confer on Alexandria unsurpassed facilities for manufacturing. The abundance and cheapness of provisions, and the salubrity of the air, are favorable to this object; and many flourishing manufactories of iron, leather, peltries, &c., already exist.

A new Court House, of large dimensions and handsome design, has been recently added to the conveniences of the town through the liberality of Congress.

The Museum, kept in rooms over the market-house, is well worth attention, comprising, as it does, more personal relics of General Washington than can be found elsewhere, and also a large and curious collection of specimens in Natural History.

The churches and houses of worship belonging to the town are numerous, commodious, and well attended. Public schools are many, and their exemplary character has acquired for Alexandria wide repute as a

theatre of education. It will not be invidious to particularize that kept by Benjamin Hallowell, since his numerous scholars have carried its reputation into every part of the union.

Within a few years past, an association styled the Lyceum, and accommodated in a new and tasteful edifice, built of free-stone, after the Doric order, has served to evince that the citizens of Alexandria are not behind the most enlightened communities of the age in a love of letters, or a zeal for improvement. The course of lectures delivered during the winter, brings together with great regularity a crowded audience, and to the ordinary attractions of the institution have been occasionally added the names of such lecturers as Adams, Barnard, Cushing, Goodrich, Gurley, &c.

The channel of the river tends obliquely from the mouth of the Eastern Branch to the wharves of Alexandria, where its depth is between forty and fifty feet. Rising by a gentle acclivity from the water's edge, the country subsides into a wide and level plain,

until it reaches the base of a range of hills whose summits, at different points, (such as Shuter's Hill, Mount Ida, Arlington, &c.,) present a succession of views, which, for extent, variety, and beauty, it might be difficult to rival.

The population of Alexandria by the late census, is as follows, viz:

Whites, - - - - - -	5,758
Free colored, - - - - - -	1,627
Slaves, - - - - - - -	1,074
Total in 1840, - - -	8,459
" in 1830, - - -	8,263
Increase, - - - -	196

MOUNT VERNON

VAULT AT MOUNT VERNON

MOUNT VERNON.

THE picture herewith presented of this classic and patriotic shrine, is eminently correct. The house stands on a bold hill overlooking the Potomac. It is distant about fourteen miles from Washington. Every thing about Mount Vernon is in keeping with the great man whose home it was. The trees are large and shady. The vistas through the woods commanding glimpses of the glittering river, and the passing sails, the green slopes basking in the sun, and gradually losing themselves beneath the shadowy underbrush. The house itself is two stories high, and surmounted by a small cupola, over which is an ancient and storm beaten weather-cock. The piazza reaches from the ground to the eaves of the roof, and is guarded on the top by a light and tasteful balustrade. The pillars are large and graceful, and present a simple and grand idea to the mind. Beneath this porch the Father

of his country was accustomed to walk, and the ancient stones, to hearts of enthusiastic patriotism, are full of deep and meditative interest. The interior is wainscotted after the fashion of those days, with highly wrought cornices and shafts. The rooms are generally small except the dining room, which is a spacious and hospitable hall. The whole house presents a curious spectac le. Every thing reminds you of former days ; and in treading the halls of Mount Vernon, the mind reverts incessantly to that majestic form, whose shadow cast upon those very walls, seems to the mind's eye, ready to start before you into life.

On the hill side toward the river, the visitor is led to a rude and despoiled vault. Every thing about it bears evidence of neglect and almost of desecration. The door way is broken in, the wood rotted, the stones thrown in disarray. The ceders on the sodded vault are withered. H ere slept from the day of his burial until within a few years back, the body of the illustrious chief. A new vault was built some distance off, and thither he was removed. In a sarcophagus now sleep

the remains of Washington. The lid is wrought with the arms of his country, and his simple but elegant epitaph is his name. By his side in a corresponding tomb, are the ashes of "Martha, consort of Washington."

ton, a small band of Indians inhabited the banks of the Eastern Branch. They were three adults and several children. They lived in cabins near a spring of water, preserving their original costume, and living by tilling an acre or two of corn, and preparing baskets of various colored twigs and barks, for the use of the neighboring whites. They were peaceable and orderly, but they passed away, and no relic remains of their dwellings, and scarce a record of their existence.

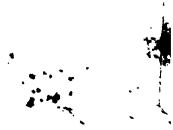
THE POTOMAC AT THE LITTLE FALLS.

LITTLE FALLS BRIDGE.

THE view herewith given is the representation of a wild and romantic scene. It lies about three miles above Georgetown, and can be approached by an excellent road, along the tow-path of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The Bridge is flung across the Potomac, which is here very narrow, scarcely over a hundred yards in breadth. The current is rapid, rolling along over a rocky bottom. A few hundred yards above the bridge, are the lesser falls of the Potomac. These cascades are about thirty feet in height. Their appearance is very picturesque. The Virginia bank of the river, is precipitous and rocky, and rises to the height of more than a hundred feet. The Bridge as presented in the plate, does not exist. It was swept away by the ice some three years ago. The spectator may judge of the immense quantity of ice that

comes down the river, from the fact of its being able to carry away a bridge so high above the surface of the water. The masses of ice are piled mountains high, and until they reach the wide open waters near Georgetown, present a sublime spectacle.

Here it was, that Capt. John Smith, some where in the year 1614, met a tribe of Indians and had a talk with them. The mind's eye can go back to that early day, and people the rocky foreground of our picture, with groups of painted Indians, with their bows and spears, mingling with the stern and adventurous cavaliers of Smith's party; can see the plumed cap of the Christian soldier, and the eagle decorated head of the Indian chief, mingling in friendly intercourse, and people the whole scene with objects of high historic interest.



BLADENSBURG.

In order to make our views of the District complete, we have included the village of Bladensburg, in Maryland, five miles from Washington.

History has the name of this town recorded in her annals, and to the visitor at the seat of Government it must always be an object of historic interest.

The view presents the heights around the village, and the bridge over the Eastern Branch, which flows here in a shallow stream, afterwards assumes the bold features of a river, and at Washington is a mile in breadth. The road in the foreground is that along which the British army marched to the battle, and afterwards to Washington.

On this bridge the English fell in column, swept off by repeated discharges from the American artillery. In vain, for some mo-

ments, were the commands of officers, in vain the force of thorough discipline and approved courage: the forces could not advance. They wavered under the terrible discharge, and had the scenes of that unfortunate day been equalled by the check given the enemy on the bridge of Bladensburg, the chief city of the land, would not have fallen under the fires of an invading army.

CARRIAGE FARE

OF WASHINGTON.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAWS OF THE CORPORATION, RELATING TO HACKNEY CARRIAGES, CABS, OR OTHER VEHICLES, CARRYING PASSENGERS FOR PAY OR HIRE.

SEC. 12. *And be it enacted*, That, from and after the passage of this act, the follow- rates of fare or charges for the conveyance of persons from one place to another in the city of Washington, in hackney carriages, cabs, or other vehicles, carrying passengers for pay or hire, between day break and eight o'clock, P. M., shall not be exceeded, that is to say:

From the Capitol square to the Eastern Branch bridge, (known as the Navy Yard bridge,) thirty-one cents;

From the Capitol square to the Eastern Branch bridge, (known as the Middle bridge,) thirty-one cents;

From the Capitol square to the Navy Yard, twenty-five cents;

From the Capitol square to the south end of New Jersey avenue, twenty-five cents;

From the Capitol square to Greenleaf's point, twenty-five cents;

From the Capitol square to Seventeenth street west, twenty-five cents;

For any distance between the Capitol square and any of the abovementioned places, not exceeding one half of the entire distance, twelve and a half cents; but any distance more than one-half, shall be reckoned as the entire distance;

From the Navy Yard to the Middle bridge, twenty-five cents;

From the President's square to Greenleaf's point, twenty-five cents;

From the President's square to the Western limits of the city, twenty-five cents;

From the Baltimore Railroad depot to the National or Indian Queen Hotels, twelve and one-half cents;

From the said depot to the Hotel upon Pensylvania avenue, between Fourteenth and *Fifteenth* streets, twenty-five cents;

From the National or Indian Queen Hotels, the City Hall, or any place in the vicinity of those places, to the Steamboat wharf, twelve and a half cents ;

From the Steamboat wharf to either of the said places, or places in their vicinity, twelve and a half cents ;

From the National or Indian Queen Hotels, the City Hall, or any place in the vicinity of those places, to any place east of Seventeenth street west, or to any place west of Sixth street east, or to any place south of P street north, or to any place north of K street south, twelve and one-half cents ;

For any distance between Greenleaf's point and the Navy Yard, or between the Navy Yard and the Middle bridge, or between the President's square and Greenleaf's point, or the western limits of the city, not exceeding one half the entire distance, twelve and a half cents ; but any distance more than one half shall be reckoned as the whole distance : *Provided*, no charge shall be made exceeding twelve and a half cents a mile for any distance above two miles ; and in case of any deten-

tion of a hackney carriage beyond five minutes, the driver thereof shall be allowed for the whole hack a sum not exceeding twelve and a half cents for every fifteen minutes. And for the conveyance of persons from any one place to another in the city of Washington, not specified above, at the rate of twelve and one half cents a mile. And for all conveyances or detentions later than eight o'clock P. M., the owners or drivers of hackney carriages may demand and receive at the rate of fifty per centum on the foregoing charges in addition thereto; and in all the foregoing cases the same charges shall be allowed for a part of a mile as for a whole mile.

SEC. 13. *And be it enacted*, That if any owner or driver of a hackney carriage, cab, or other vehicle, carrying passengers for pay or hire, shall refuse to carry a passenger or passengers at the foregoing rates, or demand or receive any greater sum for the conveyance of persons than the rates by this act established, or shall take up any passengers contrary to the provisions of the fourteenth section of this act, he or they, on conviction,